

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 IN THE COTTONWOOD ROOM A**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Clark and Members Armstrong and Pelech

Absent: None

Chairman Clark declared a quorum present.

Attendees: Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Administrator, Mandi Florip; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson, and Trustees Smolic and Towne

Resident: Karen Carruthers and Liz Leonard

**C. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY**

Meeting minutes of July 12, 2023 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Pelech that the regular meeting minutes be approved and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. DISCUSS THE VILLAGE'S PARK TREES REMOVAL PROJECT**

Chairman Clark indicated the Committee would also like to approve the Dunlap Tree Experts inventory list of dead park trees to be removed.

A motion was made to approve Dunlap Tree Experts to remove the parks tree in the amount of \$10,100. The motion was made by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Pelech. The motion was carried.

**E. DISCUSS THE NAMING OF THE RECENT GRAINGER PURCHASED LAND**

Chairman Clark stated the village recently acquired 2 parcels from Grainger. The Committee would like to name the parcel located at 24880 N. Riverwoods Road. Chairman Clark added one idea she received was Riverwoods Field. Trustee Towne commented using Riverwoods in the name might be misconstrued as the land belongs to the town of Riverwoods. Trustee Smolic mentioned Mettawa South 70 and Mettawa Savanna. The Committee approved the naming scheme of Mettawa Savanna.

The motion was made to label the 24880 N. Riverwoods Road parcel as Mettawa Savanna. The motion was made by Member Pelech and seconded by Member Armstrong. The motion was carried.

**F. DISCUSS MOWING VILLAGE LOT 24880 N RIVERWOODS ROAD AND 13700 W EVERETT ROAD**

Chairman Clark stated the Board members received an email from the Village Clerk last week, asking for their consensus to approve Bob Haraden to begin mowing without a contract the two parcels acquired from Grainger. A consensus was in favor for Bob Haraden to commence. The same terms will be agreed upon with Bob Haraden as stated and approved for the hay field located at 701 Riverwoods Road. The expediting behind mowing the lots without an agreement, was to provide additional time to clear the two

large parcels prior to the raining season. Chairman Clark added the Village Attorney Rhodes is currently drafting an agreement for these two lots. The contract will follow the current terms from the hay field that in which the village will be paid \$50 per acre. The contract will be drafted for three years. After the field is mowed, Mr. Haraden will be planting soy-beans for two years to improve and enrich the condition of the soil. On the third year, Mr. Haraden will be planting rye grass. The village will not incur any expenses. Chairman Clark indicated Mr. Haraden has mowed several acres to date, unfortunately a delay has occurred due to a large piece of concrete hidden in the field broke the trackers blade. The mowing will continue after the repair. Once the field has been mowed, the asphalt and the silt screening will be removed as a result from the 2013 BMW Golf event. The 2013 event was contracted between BMW and Grainger. The Village Administrator Florip is exploring if the village can receive any financial support to restore the parcel. To remove the asphalt from this parcel, a contractor has estimated it will take 100-140 truckloads. This project will need to go out to bid.

Chairman Clark added once the parcel has been mowed, the asphalt has been cleared, the parcel will need buckthorn to be eradicated. Chairman Clark indicated she has been seeking proposals for the buckthorn to be removed. A few proposals have been received. Eubanks Environmental was received for \$5,500 an acre. Dunlap Lawn Service proposal was received in the amount of \$47,000. CK Contractors proposal indicated \$275 per hour. Chairman Clark stated further discussions of the buckthorn removal will be on next month's agenda.

**G. UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE LOT BERM LOCATED ON ROUTE 60 AND ST. MARYS ROAD**

Chairman Clark added she has been working with the contractor to complete the final responsibility items at the village berm. The concrete slabs have been removed and top soil has been spread. The crew will remove a few more dead trees and clear the shrubbery around the entrance columns. Chairman Clark said she is very pleased on the progress of the berm. This location will be added to the village's annual mowing program next year.

**H. DISCUSS EUBANKS ENVIRONMENTAL FINAL BUCKTHORN TREATMENT AT OAK HILL LANE**

Chairman Clark added Eubanks Environmental cleared the buckthorn from this lot in the spring. Eubanks Environmental recommended a second and final buckthorn treatment for the parcel.

The motion was made to approve the Eubanks Environmental proposal in the amount of \$1,872 for the final buckthorn treatment. The motion was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Pelech. The motion was carried.

**I. DISCUSS THE WHIPPOORWILL PARK STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS**

Chairman Clark stated she spoke to the Village Engineer Jamie Anderson regarding an old manhole north of Whippoorwill Park's road path was not draining properly. As a result, this drainage issue will be addressed next spring.

**J. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION, AND IF APPROVED, BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Chairman Clark stated the Board will be discussing the Aero Sport RC Club agreement this month. As a result, Chairman Clark went to visit the site. Chairman Clark indicated this parcel has not been maintained for years. The parcel displayed several violations to the village's ordinances. This club

should not be given any exceptions. Chairman Clark indicated the Board members should provide a list of conditions for them to determine if they can oblige accordingly. Chairman Clark met the President of Aero Sport RC club during her visit.

Resident, Karen Carruthers (25220 Shagbark) indicated she lives north of the Aero Sport RC Club. Mrs. Carruthers indicated she hears the buzzing of the aircraft planes often as she enjoys working in her yard. Mrs. Carruthers added the village has worked effortlessly to obtain this parcel, that dedication should not be outdone by allowing a club does not follow Mettawa's philosophy, the preservation of land. As a resident, she often encountered strangers walking onto her property in search of their crashed aircraft.

Trustee Towne commented at a Board meeting, we approved to keep them at the location until an agreement was drafted. Trustee Towne added the agreement will need to include parameters to include the Villages zoning matters. Trustee Towne added the Grainger agreement did not mention anything about the airstrip. The village will need to handle the business in a friendly manner while addressing our zoning requirements.

Liz Leonard, (15540 W. Old School Road) the Chairman of Zoning, Planning and Appeals attended this meeting. Ms. Leonard added this parcel is listed as R-1. As a result, this business would be considered non-confirming and in violation. The parcel has accessory structures with no principal dwelling required by Mettawa's zoning code. Chairman Clark asked if the structures were permitted. Ms. Leonard added the village should obtain the permits from Lake County or Lake Forest to determine what was approved. Ms. Leonard added her concern is the wood burning stove while being surrounded by dry forest preserve. Ms. Leonard said the village should move towards with their vision of restoring the land as a savanna.

Trustee Smolic added his initial thoughts of the aircraft was they can continue to fly on the property. Trustee Smolic has since visited the site and indicated the Aero Sport RC Club has disrespected the use of the land. The club has not maintained the land, piles of wood can be found, an old tracker is covered by the tree line and the structures appear to be a hazard and a liability to the village. Trustee Smolic added the Board can determine if they will allow the club to fly their aircraft after everything has been cleared as a public space.

Member Armstrong stated this business is in violation in Mettawa's ordinances. Trustee Armstrong asked if the village can obtain the permits that were issued to this business in better understand what was approved. Member Armstrong added she sent her comments of the parcel to the Village Clerk to be shared with the Village Attorney.

Chairman Clark added she met the President of Aero Sport RC during her visit. Chairman Clark added they also have marine batteries next to the wood burning building. They have several buildings that have not been built to code.

Member Pelech stated she is asking that the business eviction be done gracefully. Member Pelech said she has visited the site too. She indicated she experienced some great memories with her family at this location. Member Pelech said this business is hobby and an art for these folks. Member Pelech said she would like this location to be restored as a savanna; however, the village should handle the removal of the business with dignity as Mettawa is a friendly village.

Chairman Clark replied the Trustees here have the same goals, the business needs to adhere to Mettawa's zoning code, the structures need to be removed and we should consider limited hours for flying.

Chairman Clark asked Village Engineer Scott Anderson if the two elderberries that were planted at Whippoorwill Park pollinator gardens were guaranteed. Chairman Clark added the two bushes are dead. Village Engineer Scott Anderson replied no.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Pelech to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk